Mr Tuffen
with Mr Lemaitre's Respectful
Compliments

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NARRATIVE

OF THE

Arrest, Examination, Imprisonment, &c.

OF

P. T. LEMAITRE.

Entered at Stationer's Hall.

(PRICE ONE SHILLING.)

Juſt publiſhed, price 1s. 6d.

BY J. SMITH, AT THE POP-GUN, PORTSMOUTH-STREET.

Aſſaſſination of the King!

OR, THE

Pop-Gun Plot Unravelled;

CONTAINING AN ACCOUNT OF THE APPREHENSION, TREATMENT IN PRISON, AND REPEATED EXAMINATIONS

BEFORE THE PRIVY COUNCIL,

OF

JOHN SMITH AND GEORGE HIGGINS,

ON A CHARGE OF

HIGH TREASON:

WITH

EXACT COPIES OF THE WARRANTS OF COMMITMENT, DISCHARGE, LETTERS, &c. &c.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

A LETTER FROM MR. PARKINSON,

The Particulars of his EXAMINATION before the PRIVY-COUNCIL, and of his INTERCOURSE with MINISTRY on the above BUSINESS.

" PLOTS, 'tis well known, are neceſſary tools
" To lift up knaves, and ſcare believing fools!
" Then marvel not why Courtiers, in this ſeaſon,
" In TRUTH find LIBEL, and in POP-GUNS—TREASON.
" ALARMS and PANICS ever muſt await
" Thoſe whom CORRUPTION lifts to haughty ſtate;
" But ſhould REFORM a People's Rights reſtore,
" POP-GUN REPORTS would fright GREAT MEN no more."

BRITISH MUSEUM 29 MAR 46

HIGH TREASON!!

NARRATIVE

OF THE

ARREST,

Examinations before the Privy Council,

AND

IMPRISONMENT

OF

P. T. LEMAITRE,

ACCUSED OF BEING A PARTY IN THE

POP-GUN PLOT,

OR,

A PRETENDED PLOT

TO

KILL THE KING!

IN WHICH IS INTRODUCED

The Correſpondence with the Privy Council, &c.

SECOND EDITION.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR P. T. LEMAITRE; AND SOLD BY J. SMITH, AT THE POP-GUN, PORTSMOUTH STREET, LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS.

1795.

BRITISH MUSEUM
29 MAR 46

Aſſaſſination of the King, &c.

TO thoſe who read this narrative it is neceſſary to premiſe that the writer is now under twenty years of age, and that he ſhould not have thought of intruding himſelf upon the public, if a charge of a moſt heinous nature had not been brought againſt him, which, in juſtice to himſelf, and to the character he has hitherto ſupported, and hopes to ſupport through life, he is bound to refute.

A ſimple detail of facts will ſhew with what inhumanity he has been treated by the men in power in this nation and the abſurdity of the pretext which made him a priſoner for thirty-two weeks in a horrid cell, and deprived a beloved mother of her exiſtence.

On Saturday, September 27th, 1794, between the hours of ſeven and eight in the evening, a man knocked at the door of my couſin's houſe, and being informed I was within made a ſignal to ſix or ſeven more perſons, who with him ruſhed into the houſe, and being informed that I was above ſtairs, ſeized an apprentice below, and ſhut him up in the lower ſhop, one of them remaining at the door with a piſtol; whilſt another detachment run up the front ſtairs with *Townſend*, emphatically called, the "*Swell Trap* of "Bow-ſtreet office," at their head, Metcalf the *ſpy* bringing up the rear. Whilſt this was doing, my friends called

to me in French, that there were ſome perſons come to take me; and I having equally the liberty of eſcaping by means of *back ſtairs* and the leads of the houſe, unlike Pitt, choſe rather to take the honeſt *front* way, and unexpected and unprepared as this viſit certainly was, opened the door, came forward and found the troop upon the top flight. They aſked for Lemaitre—I told them I was the perſon they wanted, and begged them to wait till I put on ſome cloaths, as I was then in my working dreſs, having been employed at the furnace: I was only anſwered by oaths, and dragged down ſo forcibly that I was compelled to inform them I had ſome knowledge of walking alone. At the bottom of the ſtairs I ſaw Jealous and Upton; I ſpoke to Upton, but inſtead of any reply he turned towards the door, and kept at ſome diſtance. I then requeſted to ſee the *warrant* for my arreſt, and was told by Jealous I ſhould ſee it ſhortly, but "the *plot* which I had laid for others I ſhould fall in "myſelf." They appeared now to be about to ſearch for my papers, which made me demand, in a peremptory tone, a ſight of the *warrant*: and Townſend in return claps a piſtol to my head and ſwears "damn my blood I will blow "your brains out if you ſay another word;" and at the ſame time inſtantly proceeded to ſearch me, and *tie my hands*. This rouſed the indignation of one of my friends who aſked what authority they had for uſing me in that manner; but the ſame *Piſtolado* turning round ſwore "damn my eyes if I don't fire among you if any one ſtirs." I begged my friends not to be alarmed, his threat I aſſured them he knew better than to put into execution, and I requeſted that they would only attend to his proceedings. Metcalf had now a piſtol put into his hands, and was proceeding with another (as I imagined) to ſeize my papers.

Upon this, and the *martial* appearance of my viſitors, I could not refrain from aſking *Jealous* whether they expected to be oppoſed by a regiment of *ſans cullottes*; he told me it was

cuſtomary

cuſtomary on the apprehenſion of any one, and was nothing new to them. I next enquired, *upon what charge I was apprehended*, Jealous ſeemed much inclined to wave this queſtion, but as I preſſed him to anſwer, he told me on charge of a "Highway Robbery." I was now hurried by Jealous and Townſend in a very violent manner to a coach waiting at the end of the ſtreet, where thinking I was properly ſecured, the latter began in the moſt inſolent manner calling me "a damned orator, violent wretch," &c. and this without the ſmalleſt provocation.

The coach ſtopped at Carpmeal's, the bunch of Grapes Bow ſtreet, and I had ſcarcely time to enquire whether my hands were to be unbound, when I was led from this houſe into the public office, and had no ſooner entered than my hat was forced off my head by one of theſe attendant bullies. My ſtay here was of no conſiderable length, and no one ſpoke to me; I was conducted back to Carpmeal's, and was led up to the firſt floor, where after I had ſeen two doors locked upon me, I again repeated my requeſt to have my hands unbound. To this they at length agreed, and as I thought they might now have received more humane orders, I repeated my requeſt to ſee the warrant, but this was refuſed.

As I had been from the time I dined (two o'clock) without eating, I informed Jealous of it, and requeſted ſomething for ſupper, but this was likewiſe refuſed. As the change from the hot reflection of a furnace to the damp of a cold and rainy evening, without being allowed any addition of apparel, rather diſcompoſed me I laid myſelf on a ſofa I found here, and ſhortly fell aſleep; but this repoſe I had not long enjoyed, when *Townſend* awoke me to be again ſearched. As they had taken all they found upon me the firſt time, they of courſe added nothing to their ſtock, which I believe conſiſted (to their great aſtoniſhment) in a piece of brown paper, a child's marble, and

two pocket pieces. My ſmall-cloaths having but one fob, without pockets, Townſend with ſurpriſe aſked if I had no pockets. I aſked in my turn, if he did not know that we *Sans cullottes* were well contented to have even breeches. This however did not ſatisfy him; after a ſtrict, cloſe, and rather *alarming* ſearch about the *breech*, he repeated the queſtion, and I coolly anſwered that it was his buſineſs to find, and not mine to diſcover; upon which he went out of the room, and I again laid myſelf on the ſofa, but was ſcarcely aſleep when Jealous, who was by the door with a piſtol in his hand, called out "Do you live at your father's "or where you was taken?" I replied "Yes;" upon which he repeated "at your father's or couſin's?" but receiving no other anſwer than this, and the requeſt that if any one went to my father's they would be more civil than they had hitherto been, he deſiſted.

Finding myſelf ſtill very chilly, I went to the fire, where Jealous likewiſe ſeated himſelf, and without loſs of time began to *ſound* me. He prefaced his views with an elegant deſcription of ALL his Majeſty's *virtues*, *qualities*, *accompliſhments*, *&c.* but finding this productive only of a few ſmiles, he charged me with having (as he expreſſed himſelf) "Gone juſt a degree beyond the line," and expreſſed much ſorrow for the ſituation of ſo young a perſon. To all his menaces I replied only by a fit of laughter; but he was proof againſt deriſion and no ways diſconcerted. At about twelve that night I was conducted in a coach, by two *armed men* (who, to do them juſtice, did not *wantonly inſult* me) to Clerkenwell Bridewell, where I was informed I ſhould ſup. On our arrival at this priſon, Aris, the keeper, was in bed, and I was told nothing could be had unleſs he roſe, but as I never accommodated myſelf at the expence of another's repoſe, I begged he might not be diſturbed on my account. I was left in an apartment by myſelf,

myſelf, and was told I ſhould be fetched the next morning at ten o'clock.

The perſons who were left behind at my couſin's houſe were not, in ill behaviour, inferior to their principal. With piſtols in their hands they mounted the ſtairs, enquired for my room, and ſearched every thing they could lay their hands on.

Here my couſin, who had been violently puſhed down backwards upon the ſtairs, by Townſend, for having ſimply aſked "What they were going to do with me," was ſtruck with an exclamation from one of them, "Ah!" ſaid he "this is ſomething like it!"—A *bag of marbles*, a *tube*, and a *Gun* at the ſame moment ſtruck their eyes. The bag of marbles and gun, the latter with a *tin* barrel it is true, had little the appearance of *ſervice*, but might very juſtly be ſuſpected as *models* for others more conſiſtent with my *wicked deſigns:* and again, the *tube* (which required nothing but glaſſes to render it a compleat *teleſcope)* was about four feet in length, and, as may have been ſuppoſed, very properly conſtructed (in the manner of a pea-ſhooter) to pop out a *two pounder*.

My friends were alarmed at their *ghaſtly* aſpects, ſilence reigned during this interval, but they ſoon collected ſufficient reſolution to advance *boldly* to the ſeizure, and diſcovered to my friends what had occaſioned their conſternation —laughter ſucceeded the reign of ſilence, my friends rallied them, begged them to take the child's gun and the marbles, as they might afford ſome amuſement to Pitt and his friends in the Privy Council; and (agreeable to the children's phraſe) enable them to continue their well known game of *pickers up*.

Notwithſtanding this mortification, they continued their ſearch, and deſpairing, at laſt, of finding any *pop-guns*, except *tin* ones, and having collected my papers together, they departed, feeling their dignity much hurt by the ridicule

ridicule which my friends had ſo bounteouſly laviſhed upon them.

My apartment for the night was a bed room, through the iron grates of which whiſtled the wind and rain of a moſt tempeſtuous night. The next morning at ſeven o'clock I was taken to the *ſtrong room* of the priſon, under pretence that the keeper would ſpeak to me there. Here I was refuſed the ſlight indulgence, (if ſuch it can be called) of dreſſing myſelf decent, and was obliged to go through the ſtreets, on a Sunday, in cloaths as dirty as the charcoal I had been uſing on my apprehenſion. The clerks of the Treaſury ſtood gaping at me in this condition as if I was ſome curious animal; and it gave me pleaſure to get rid of their impertinence by being introduced by Juſtice Ford into the council chamber, where the following ſcene and dialogue took place.

Examination before the Privy Council

OF

PAUL THOMAS LEMAITRE.

FIRST DAY.

(I was placed within a bar, *the Chancellor ſeated on my left, Pitt next to him, the Duke of Portland, with others, facing me on the other ſide of the table, among whom was the Solicitor General ſtanding, who unleſs interrupted, examined me; the Attorney General ſtood on my right, with Juſtice Ford and others behind.)*

Q. Mr. Lemaitre, what is your name?—A. Lemaitre.

Q. Yes, but your chriſtian name?—A. Paul Thomas.

Lord

Lord Chancellor. Mr. Lemaitre, I ſuppoſe you know on what account you have been brought here?—A. I do, if I can believe the information given by thoſe called *Officers of Juſtice*, who apprehended me;—they ſaid it was on a charge of a *highway robbery*.

Lord Chancellor. It is of much more ſerious nature, Mr. Lemaitre.—A. *(with indifference)* Well, I am ready to meet it.

Lord Chancellor. (pretending as advice) Mr. Lemaitre, it may be, perhaps, neceſſary to inform you, you are at liberty to refuſe anſwering any queſtions relative to ſtrangers.—A. I am as well convinced of that as relative to myſelf; *forced* private interrogatories are, in this country *illegal*.

Lord Chancellor. (rather lowering his voice) I did not know you was informed.—A. Yes I am.

Q. Where do you live?—A. No. 13, Denmark-ſtreet, Soho.

Q. What trade are you of?—A. Gold watch caſe maker.

Q. Are you in buſineſs for yourſelf?—A. No.

Q. Are you an apprentice?—No.

Q. What age are you?—A. Juſt eighteen.

Q. Where do you work?—A. At the ſame place where I live.

Q. Whom do you work with?—A. My couſin, Mrs. Ann Macaire, and Mr. Peter Deſvignes.

Q. Is Mrs. Macaire an Engliſh woman?—A. No; from *Geneva*, a ſmall independent republic in Switzerland.

Q. Is Mr. Deſvignes an Engliſhman?—A. Yes.

Q. Are *you* an Engliſhman?—A. Certainly.

Pitt. (interrupting and ſeizing eagerly a ſmall paper of preparations for the morning of execution, with an hymn for the occaſion.) What is this, Mr. Lemaitre?—A. *(putting it into his hand)* Only ſome preparations for the *halter*, at your ſervice; I found them in the cell I was confined in.

Pitt.

Pitt. (immediately returning them into my hands) Oh, oh, oh.

Q. Have you ever been abroad?—A. No.

Q. Have you ever travelled?—A. Never farther than Richmond, and other ſmall places about the ſame diſtance.

Q. You have never been farther?—A. Never.

Q. Are you a member of the *London Correſponding Society?*—A. *(with ſome degree of warmth)* Before I proceed I wiſh to know, whether perſons in this country are to be ſeized, confined, and likewiſe *ſtarved.* I have repeatedly requeſted ſomething to eat, and have been as often refuſed. This ill uſage I will not ſubmit to, nor will I anſwer another word until I have ſomething given me. At priſon I was aſked if I wiſhed for breakfaſt, I told them I did, but telling them, likewiſe, that I could not immediately indemnify them, they inſtantly ſhut my door: in conſequence of which I have now been twenty-three hours and a half without ſuſtenance, eighteen of which were in your cuſtody.

Juſtice Ford. This was not in any manner my fault, as I gave orders for every poſſible care to be taken of you.—A. Theſe directions they ſtrictly followed, in as far as related to the prevention of eſcape, for they ſhut me up in a moſt diſmal dungeon.

Lord Chancellor. Why if they had given you only the jail allowance it would have been better than nothing.——A. They might have kept that to themſelves, or not, as they pleaſed; for I am not uſed to ſuch treatment, whatever you may imagine by my dirty appearance; but I was not permitted to clean myſelf.

Lord Chancellor. I do not mean to ſay you are to be kept upon that.—A. I hope not.

Lord Chancellor (to Juſtice Ford) Can any thing be had?

Juſtice Ford. Yes, my Lord.

Lord Chancellor. Let him go into your room.

I was

I was accordingly conducted into Ford's room, and a meſſenger was diſpatched to fetch ſomething. Upon my return to the council the examination was reſumed.

Q. Are you a member of the London Cotreſponding Society?—A. I muſt again refuſe anſwering any queſtions until I ſee by what authority I have been brought here. I have not yet ſeen any other than that of piſtols, and when I demanded, laſt night, a ſight of my warrant, a piſtol was put to my head, and my hands were bound. This uſage for a queſtion ſo reaſonable, was more *brutal* than manly, and moſt *deſpotic (here there was an apparent indeciſion in the council, and a whiſper from the Chancellor to Pitt)*. I do declare I will not anſwer another word until you comply with my requeſt.

Juſtice Ford. (in a whiſper to the Chancellor.) Shall I ſhew it to him?

Lord Chancellor. (after conſulting with Pitt.) Yes, yes, you may. *Ford then gave me the warrant.*

Lemaitre. (looking over the warrant and ſmiling, Pitt looking ſtedfaſtly at me) I am apprehended, I perceive, for "*Treaſonable Practices.*"

Att. Gen. Yes, Sir, you are.

Lemaitre. This warrant is inſufficient for my arreſt, my initials are not J. P.

Att. Gen. (looking over the warrant) That was not intended as an *I*, but a *T*, I ſuppoſe.

Lemaitre. (laughing) I know how to read myſelf; and even allowing it a T, for which I am ſure it was never intended, my initials are not T. P. but P. T.

Pitt. (harſhly, and with ſtrong apparent impatience) That does not ſignify, Mr. Lemaitre, it was you we ſent for, and you we want.

Lemaitre. It is not true, that it does not ſignify: the difference is very eſſential; but as an innocent mind does

not fear interrogation, and as I am the perſon you want, I am now ſatisfied, and am ready to anſwer.

Q. Mr. Lemaitre, will you juſt ſign your name as you uſually do, that we may ſee your initials?—A. I have no objection (*I accordingly ſigned my name on a piece of paper they gave me, which was immediately handed round the table.*)

Q. Are you a member of the London Correſponding Society?—A. I am.

Q. Of diviſion No. 2?—A. Yes.

Q. Are you a *delegate* of that diviſion? (*the whole council gazing in my face, and waiting with much apparent anxiety and impatience for my anſwer.*)—A. I am.

Q. How long have you been a *delegate*?—Six months.

Q. What two quarters?—A. Yes.

Q. You was then re-elected?—A. Of courſe.

Q. Who w s elected *ſub-delegate*?—A. I do not recollect.

Q. Was it not *Richter*?—A. I think it was.

Q. How long have you been a member of the *Society*?—A. About *nine months*.

Q, What is the office of delegate? to attend the committee, and report to the ſociety?—A. Exactly.

Q. Do you remember reporting the *General Meeting* of the 14th of April?—A. I have an idea.

Q. Do you remember appointing a Committee of Correſpondence? (at preſent termed the *Executive* Committee.)—A. I heard ſomething of it.

Q. Do you remember reporting the letters read by Hardy in your committee, to and from the Society for Conſtitutional nformation, for co-operation; and the committee appointing their members for the ſame?—A. I do not recollect.

Q. Do you know their names?—A. No.

Pitt. (*turning towards me with ſome appearance of anger and diſappointment*) Why, Mr. Lemaitre, how aſtoniſhing all this is; you muſt have *very little* MEMORY?—A. Very little memory indeed.

Pitt.

Pitt. (ſtill angrily) But it is almoſt *impoſſible* to forget it all ſo ſoon.—A. It is very poſſible.

Pitt. (as before) Do you then remember nothing of it?—A. I did not always attend.

Pitt. [much vexed) But did you never afterwards hear any thing of it, in any of your aſſemblies?—A. *(with indifference.)* I was very little inquiſitive.

Q. Have you ſeen this? *(ſhewing a piece of paper of minutes of the committee.)*—A. I think I have.

Q. Is it your writing?—A. I think ſo.

Att. Gen. There is nothing in it which can cauſe you any trouble, that may induce you to decline.—A. I am perfectly *conſcious* of that, if written by me.

Q. Do you know this? *(ſhewing a paper ſigned J. B. mentioning Baſtilles, &c.)*—A. I think I do.

Q. Did you get it in the ſociety?—A. No.

Q. How came you by it?—A. I found it in the paſſage of *Barnes's* coffee room.

Q. Did you never endeavour to diſcover the owner?—A. Yes, but ineffectually.

Q. Did you ever ſee this? *(ſhewing a paper in form of a motion forbidding any member to accuſe another unleſs he had full and ſufficient grounds for ſo doing.)*—A. I do not remember.

Q. Are you certain you never ſaw it? A. I am neither certain one way nor another.

Q. Did you write this? *(ſhewing an apparent copy of the other.)*—A. I am not certain.

Q. But you ought to know if ever you made any ſuch motion?—A. I rather think I did.

Q. Then you think you wrote this?—A. It is very poſſible.

Q. This appears to be only a copy of the other, of courſe yon ſaw that too?—A. It is very immaterial, perhaps I did.

Q. Do you know this? *(ſhewing a ticket for a ſupper on the 11th of Auguſt.)*—A. I think I do.

Q. Did you write this?—A. I think I did.

Q. You can ſay if you believe it your hand writing?—A. I do believe it is.

Q. What was that meeting for?—Was you there?—A. Yes; it was ſimply a meeting of a few friends.

Q. Was it to celebrate any particular day?—A. No.

Q. It was not?——A. No, it was ſimply a convivial meeting.

(*I was now ſhewn ſeveral immaterial pieces of paper, ſuppoſed my hand writing, and asked queſtions as to my knowledge of ſeveral different perſons.*)

Q. Do you know Upton?—A. By ſight.

Q. Had you ever any correſpondence with him?—A. I have ſent him one letter.

Q. What was the purport of that letter?—A. Of a private nature.

Q. Cannot you inform us the purport of the letter?—A. It is of no import to this board, and I chuſe to decline.

Pitt. (*with ſome petulance.*) But it is very eſſential, Mr. Lemaitre, we ſhould know it, what are the reaſons?—Are you afraid?—A. No.

Pitt. Are you afraid for *Upton?*—A. No.

Pitt. (*with warmth*) What then is the reaſon of your being ſo obſtinate?—A. I am not at liberty to ſatisfy you.

Q. Did you ever receive any letters from him?—A. Yes.

Q. How long ago?—A. About a month.

Q. Have you ever called on him?—A. Once accidentally.

Q. How long is it ſince you called upon him?—A. About two or three months ſince.

Q. It is rather aſtoniſhing you ſhould call on a perſon without any knowledge of him before?—A. Paſſing through Bell Yard, (where he lived) and ſeeing a bill of ſubſcriptions

tions for wives and children of perſons confined by the ſuſpenſion of the Habeas Corpus Act, I called in, but did not go out with any ſuch intent.

Q. Did you not *premeditate* calling upon him?—A. No, I did not.

Q. Was your ſtay long?—A. Near ten minutes.

Q. What was your converſation?—A. Quite indifferent and immaterial.

Q. Had you much correſpondence together? Did you frequently write?—A. I received firſt a letter, I then ſent an anſwer, and received his reply the ſame day.

Q. Do you know *Higgins?*—A. By ſight.

Q. Do you know where he lives?—A. No.

Q. Do you know his profeſſion?—A. No.

Q. Did you ever ſee him out of the ſociety?—A. Never.

Q. Had you ever any correſpondence with him?—— A. Never.

Q. You really ſay, that you never had any correſpondence with him?—A. Not knowing where he lived I could not addreſs him a line if I wiſhed; nor were we ſufficiently acquainted to require it.

Pitt. (obſerving ſtedfaſtly my face) You mean then, Mr. Lemaitre, to declare to this board, that you never had any notes or other papers between you?—A. I certainly *declare* there *never* was.

(Here followed an apparent conſternation and confuſion among the principal ACTORS, *which was, however, happily relieved, ſhortly after, by an affiliating whiſper.)*

Q. Do you know *Smith* of Portſmouth-ſtreet?—A. Yes, as a member of the ſociety, and one of whom I have frequently bought pamphlets, &c.

(Here followed queſtions and ANSWERS *as before ſtated of Higgins.)*

Q. Did you ever ſee this? *(ſhewing a* BRASS TUBE *about two feet long, and hollow.)*—A. *(looking through towards a blue ribband*

ribband APOSTATE.) No, never nothing reſembling it in my life—but the world,—hollow and deceitful.

Q. You are certain you never ſaw any thing like it before?—A. Never.

Q. Did you ever ſee this? *(ſhewing a piece of wood about a foot long, the ends being turned ſmaller, reſembling the roller of a jack towel; with another part turned, and part ſquare, like a chocolate ſtirrer.)* A. I never ſaw more of one, than the other.

Q. Are you certain of that!—A. Yes.

Q. Did you ever ſee this? *(ſhewing a letter addreſſed to Upton.)*—A. I think not.

Q. Is not this your hand writing?—A. It reſembles it, but it is not my writing,

(Two others were then ſhewn, one addreſſed to Higgins, and the other to Smith, with ſimilar queſtions and anſwers. I was ſhewn the contents of a letter to Upton, mentioning theſe words, "Braſs is not ready, nor poiſon prepared, but enough of that "hereafter.")

Q. Did you write that?—A. With regard to the forgery, it is well done, but I never wrote the letter, nor ever heard of ſuch contents.

Q. You are ſure you never ſent this letter?—A. My letter to Upton was on a different ſubject, much longer than this, and on larger paper; but of no conſequeuce to you.

Q. What ſubject could you have with a perſon with whom you are not intimate, which required your letter to be ſo long, and which is of ſo much importance that you will rather hurt or prejudice yourſelf, than diſcloſe it!—A. It was of a nature, it is true, that required ſome explanation, which cauſed its length; and although I don't know that you have not ſeiz'd it with my papers, (I mean the copy) yet, as I ſaid before, it is of no conſequence to you, and I will not break my paſt word by being the firſt

to

to diſcloſe its contents.—unleſs at a more proper period, and in a fitter place.

Pitt. (*with ſome warmth.*) What do you mean, Mr. Lemaitre, by a more proper period?—A. I mean when a jury of my countrymen decides; for I ſuppoſe it will come to that, if you believe this *nonſenſe*.

(*Here followed a pauſe of ſome length.*)

Q. You mentioned ſending a letter, how did you ſend it?—A. By a man, a ſtranger.

Q. How came you to ſend it by a perſon you did not know?—A. I met him at the bottom of Bell Yard, and gave him two-pence to take it.

Pitt. What was the reaſon of your not carrying it yourſelf, when ſo near?—A. If I anſwer this it will explain the contents.

(*I was now ſhewn the contents of the other two letters of nearly the ſame purport as the former.*)

Q. You ſay you never ſaw theſe letters before?—A. As I ſaid, I never wrote to theſe men, but at the ſame time I acknowledge, *and that without fear*, that they do reſemble my hand writing.

Q. You ſay they reſemble your hand writing?—A. Yes, but it is not a novelty to ſee two hands alike, and I think I ſhall with ſatisfaction be able to prove the difference at a more proper period, and can only add, I never ſaw, heard, or in any manner knew, either directly or indirectly, any thing relative to any ſuch ſubject, and am ready on oath to declare the ſame.

I did not at this time know that Upton was my accuſer, and having promiſed not to mention either his letters, or behaviour, I preferred ſuffering that ſmall prejudice I might in conſequence lay under than diſcloſe the ſubject of our correſpondence, which were two challenges.

Ordered to withdraw.

Monday, Sept. 29.

SECOND DAY.

(I was placed as before, there were nearly the same number of persons present, with, however, the addition of a Woman. I had been introduced with two or three more, and was by her pointed out, she declaring "That's him, I saw him give the piece of wood (aforementioned) to Mr. Upton." I enquired if the lady was on oath, and being informed she was, I told her to observe me well before she gave so decided an answer; as she still persisted, I was going to put some questions to her, but was prevented by her being immediately ordered out. I then declared, I did not think I had seen the person before, except at the office, passing by a door where I was sitting, and she looked in. Unless it was the person who brought me the letter, and I thought her much taller, and not such a smart looking dame as this. Many questions were now asked, with the same answers as yesterday.)

Q. Did you ever see Upton out of the Society besides that once at his house?—A. Yes.

Q. Where did you see him?—A. I must decline answering this question.

Pitt. But, Mr. Lemaitre, it is very necessary we should be informed, for this declining leaves great suspicion.—A. Your suspicions are entirely groundless, for it was a meeting no wise relative to concerns of the society; neither was it of a criminal nature.

Pitt. Then what can induce you to decline?—A. I only repeat, I chuse to decline.

Q. Was it at Pearce's?—A. *(finding that Upton must already have acknowledged the meeting.)* Yes.

Q. Who were there? only you three?—A. Yes, there were more.

Q. Who were they? *(I returned no answer.)*

Q. Was Groves there?—A. Yes.

Q. Was Brooks there?—A. Yes.

Q. Were there any more there?—No.

Q. What

Q. What was the meeting for?—A. Things quite indifferent.

Pitt (*with warmth*) But it is ſurpriſing you ſhould meet ſo many on a ſubject of no importance. Was you accuſtomed to meet there together.—A. (*with indifference*) No, this was the firſt time.

Q. Was the meeting accidental.—A. Not entirely.

Q. Was it on account of ſome quarrel?—It is true there had been ſome difference.

Q. You had quarrelled with Upton?—A. Yes.

Q. He had ſent you a letter?—A. Yes.

Q. Was that letter for an accommodation?—A. No.

Q. What then? A challenge?—A. Yes.

Q. And did you accept of it?—A. No.

Q. What then did you do?—A. I ſent him an anſwer.

Q. To what purport?—A. Treating his conduct with that contempt and ridicule I thought he richly deſerved?

Q. Did he reply?—A. Yes.

Q. Perſiſting in the challenge?—A. Yes.

Q. Then this meeting was for an accommodation?—A. Yes.

Q. And were you friends after this, as before—A. We were never more intimate than other members of the Society.

Pitt. Was you moſt intimate before or after?—A. I never was intimate either before or after.

Q. Have you at preſent thoſe letters you mentioned?—A. I don't know.

Q. Don't you know whether you kept them?—A. I don't know whether they have not been ſeized with the reſt of my papers; or, as I never took much account of them, whether they have not been deſtroyed.

Q. Do you think you could procure them by ſending?—A. No; if they were at home I ſuppoſe you would have

them with the reſt of my papers. I ſuppoſe you have my letter to Upton?

Q. No, we have not; he ſays he wrote his reply on the back of your anſwer.—A. That's *falſe*, it was on another ſheet of paper. My letter was on three ſides completely filled up, the other, of courſe, reſerved for the addreſs.

Q. Are you certain of that, Mr. Lemaitre?—A. I ſhall be able to *prove* this, and I think if you preſs this point, Upton muſt likewiſe acknowledge it. But I beg you will not loſe ſight of this woman, for I am confident you will find her equivocating, on a further examination; and if you ſuppoſe her evidence, at preſent, worthy of credit, by a further queſtioning you will ſee through her deſigns, and the fallacy of all ſhe has dared to advance.

(*Ordered to withdraw.*)

Juſtice Ford's Chambers.

I was requeſted by him in the name of the *Privy Council*, to recapitulate my former examination, and then ſign it; and if I remembered more, or had anſwered any thing wrong, to remedy theſe errors, having more leizure to reflect. I ſaid I had not the leaſt objection, provided I was permitted to have a copy of the paper, ſigned, likewiſe, on his part, by himſelf. Mr. Ford ſaid he would make known my demand to the Privy Council, and he afterwards informed me that *they would not* grant a copy. During my ſtay, I repreſented the *abſurdity* and improbability of the plot; and aſked him, whether himſelf or the council *ſeriouſly* believed the ſtory. He declined any direct anſwer, but ſaid they could not do otherwiſe than believe it, until it was properly cleared up. I expoſtulated on the infamy of Upton, and was ordered to withdraw.

THIRD DAY.

(Nearly as before.)

Q. Do you know Crosfeild?—A. I believe I have heard the name, but do not know the perſon.

Pitt. Do you mean to ſay, Mr. Lemaitre, you do not know him?—A. I do not only *mean*, but actually ſay it. I do not think I ſhould know him if I was to ſee him.

I was now aſked, ſeparately, if I knew Beck, Bone, Hodgſon, Palmer, Hill, Burks, Parkinſon, the two ſpies Groves and Metcalf, and others; ſome of whom I knew by ſight, but declined anſwering interrogatories which did not relate to myſelf. Queſtions being ſtill put to me, I declared they would be uſeleſs, as my reſolution was determined.

Q. Have you ſeen this? (ſhewing a paper, "Guillotine," &c.)—A. No.

Q. You never ſaw it?—A. Never,

Q. Have you ſeen this? (ſhewing a ſong, "The Rights "of Man, addreſſed to the London Correſponding Society," —A. No.

Q. You ſay you never have ſeen it?—A. Never.

Pitt. (ſharply.) How can that be, there is the name of your ſociety affixed to it?—A. *(ſhortly)* Very poſſible, and I yet know nothing of it.

Pitt. (ſharply ſtill.) What can that mean, I don't underſtand you?—A. *(ſhortly as before)* If you look over you will find.

Lord Chancellor. I ſee nothing particular in it.—A. Suppoſe any one, ſpy or another, chuſes to write any ſong, and addreſs it to a ſociety, it ſtill bears its name, although that ſociety may be no ways concerned; which is the preſent caſe; it *is not printed by*, but *addreſſed to* the ſociety.

Lord Chancellor. (ſoftly to Pitt.) That's true.

Pitt.

Pitt. (*ſcratching his head.*) Oh!

Q. Did you ever ſee this? (ſhewing a letter reprinted by the London Correſponding Society from T. Paine.)—— A. No.

Q. Never?—A. Never.

The ſame qneſtions and anſwers to two addreſſes of the above ſociety, apparently juſt printed.

Q How can this be; you are a member of the committee by whom theſe muſt have been as well drawn up, as ordered to be printed, and you ſtill ſay you know nothing of it.—A. I ſay I know nothing of it, and that is the truth.

Q. Did you ever write any thing for the preſs?—A No.

Q. You really never did write any pamphlets?—A. Never.

Lord Chancellor. (*with great meekneſs*) We do not enquire *what* you have written, but ſimply *if* you have written any?—A. I never have, becauſe I have not ſufficient abilities. I ſhould wiſh to know, whether you ſtill think me guilty, from evidence like what I have ſeen and heard?

Q. (*after some heſitation*) Why, Mr. Lemaitre, here's this Lady.—A. (*interrupting*) Lady! and do you actually believe one, whoſe character is nearly reſembling Upton's.

Q. Do you know any thing of their characters?—Why I believe Upton is a character who has not been nice at firing his own houſe, for one inſtance; and, I believe this *Lady* nothing more than his "*ſoi-disant*" wife, at leaſt.

Q. How do you know this? can you prove it?—A. Not in my preſent ſituation; but this far I know, his *infamy* is in every one's mouth, and if you will trouble yourſelves to enquire, I have no doubt but you will be furniſhed with ſufficient proof, as well concerning his character as her's, which I have been informed is equally abandoned.

Q. Well, there are then theſe letters, Mr. Lemaitre?—A. (*laughing*) It is true they ſomewhat reſemble my hand writing, but if this is the evidence you are to rely upon.—

Q. You

Q. You ſay they do reſemble your hand writing?—— A. Yes; but I think I can prove the difference very ſatisfactorily, although I do not think it prudent to ſhew it now.

Pitt. What is the reaſon you will not ſhew it now?— A. Becauſe I do not know but you may then bring forward others ſtill more reſembling, at a future period.

I now mentioned the abſurdity of ſuppoſing the plot was ever intended, at leaſt that I was one of the conſpirators; I ridiculed the idea of my being at the head of the ſame, as ſtated, and appealed to them, if they would not ſuppoſe that man, or ſet of men, out of their ſenſes, who would ſo far rely upon a youth, whoſe minds are ſo ſeldom found of any ſtability; I ſaid, I ſuppoſed they had choſen me on account of my ſuperior experience, and concluded by obſerving, how readily and eaſily I had been apprehended, and the little fear I had in appearing to anſwer their interrogatories.

Pitt. For what reaſons would you be alarmed by them? —A. Had they been of my writing, your preſſing them ſo cloſely muſt naturally have led me to ſuppoſe my deſigns diſcovered; and I will leave it to yourſelves to determine, whether there were then no reaſons for alarm: but a ſtranger to the whole of this nonſenſe, I laughed at the letters and their contents.

Pitt. (finding how jocularly I treated his ſapience, and pop-guns, immediately in anger ſaid) Mr. Lemaitre, we have a deal more againſt you as a violent man in the ſociety, and from very reſpectable evidence.—A. *(looking careleſsly, as frequently before, through the windows to an adjoining tennis court)* I believe you will find it equally ſo with Upton's, or rather a ſecond edition of his works.

Pitt finding that ſuch beings as himſelf had it not in their power to intimidate me, left off farther queſtioning, deſpairing of ſucceſs.

Q. Do

Q. Do you remember a diſcourſe you held with your father, near Temple Bar?—A. No.

Q. Is your father a member of the Correſponding Society?—A. No.

Q. Has he not viſited it?—A. No.

Q. Did your father never go to any of your aſſemblies?—A. Never.

I now mentioned my ſurpriſe, that a man like Upton ſhould be permitted to be at large, having juſt ſeen him walking in the Strand while I was in the hackney coach, and thus had it in his power, with a deal of eaſe, to concert other new, and ſimilar diabolical projects; he was the firſt, I ſaid, that they ſhould ſeize and proſecute, and ourſelves could be only as ſecondary objects. I then ſtated my hopes, that, although not naturally given to revenge, I ſhould have an opportunity of proſecuting, and pilloring at leaſt, that being who ſo falſely dared to dupe firſt, the public, and then that board, and laſtly, to riſk our lives, whoſe innocence he was ſo well acquainted with, if it could be called a riſk, where ſuch a villain was the accuſer.

(During the time I was making theſe remarks, Sir Pepper Arden, and others, expreſſed their approbation by exclaiming "Very good, very good!" &c.

Lord Chancellor. Do you know any friend who can ſwear to your hand writing, remembering, if they ſwear againſt you they may be dangerous evidence?—A. Having no one who is a judge of writing, and knows my hand writing ſufficiently, I muſt decline.

Pitt. Did you never write at home, keep books, or nothing that might give any one a ſufficient knowledge of your hand as to know it again? Does not your father know your hand ſufficiently?—A. No.

Pitt. Did you never write to him?—A. Living ſo near I had the pleaſure of ſeeing him often, and had no occaſion to write. *(Ordered to withdraw.)*

Thus

Thus ended my examinations; and I ſhall now give a ſlight account of my *Treatment in Priſon.*

I have mentioned the place I was confined in the firſt night. After this, for near a week, I lodged (on my return from the council) in the room of the clerk of the priſon, and had a bed in the keeper's houſe, by orders from Juſtice Ford; but this ſame keeper being appointed Governor of the "Houſe of Correction" as it is called, but which name I change, I believe very properly, to that of "Britiſh Baſtille," and a general removal taking place of the different priſoners, I was likewiſe removed, and led to a place which, as I think, will, when deſcribed, juſtify the appellation I have given it.

This Baſtille contains about five hundred different, and ſeparate cells, compoſed of nothing but bricks and ſtones. Three oaken planks fixed in the wall, with a ſtraw mattraſs (ſuch as is uſed at ſtreet doors for cleaning the ſhoes) a blanket, and a rug were the only furniture; and iron grates were in lieu of windows. At the farther extremity of the goal, there are three rooms, as they are called, with the addition of a fire place; to the lower of theſe I was conducted, and was the firſt inhabitant; I found the walls as above ſtated, (excepting, indeed, an additional quantity of ſtones, and iron bars which croſſed on all ſides for ſecurity) and they had not even that plaiſter to diſguiſe the ſepulchral appearance which the gloomy proſpect from the windows, of grates, walls, and adjoining cells, aſſiſted in producing. The floor was entirely of ſtones, had not yet been cleanſed from the dirt of the workmen, and oaken planks, on two maſſive pieces of the ſame materials raiſing them above a foot and a half from the ground, for bedſtead, with a ſtove, were at preſent the only furniture.

With ſurpriſe I aſked the keeper if this was the "*apartment*" in which *he* told me "*I ſhould be comfortable,*" he ſaid "it was," and added that "it was fit for any gentleman."

I was

I was afterwards furniſhed with a chair, table, and bedding which were, I ſuppoſe, likewiſe imagined all the furniture a gentleman required; and Mr. Aris's friends, I conjecture, preferred the hands to the common method of taking up coals (which were careleſsly laid down on the floor) with a ſhovel, and a bedſtead ſo commodious as mine, to thoſe having ſacking and curtains:—I had the advantage of placing mine near the damp walls, unleſs, indeed, I wiſhed my ſkull fractured by falling off each time I turned round. Thus was I (to make uſe of the keeper's words) "ſo comfortably ſituated as a Gentleman," that with the addition of guards, who, with a blunderbuſs on their ſhoulders, were unceaſingly locking and unlocking the maſſive doors, during the night, to ſee I was in no danger; that my ſituation ſuited the ideas of the poet:

"Like eaſtern kings a lazy ſtate we keep,
"And cloſe confin'd in our own palace ſleep."

Confined in this manner, I applied for books, and was aſked what books I wiſhed permiſſion to ſend for: finding by this I was to be ſtraightened in my lectures, as well as my perſon, I requeſted permiſſion for Rouſſeau's works, which, after ſome conſideration, was granted. My parents had a general order for admittance to ſee me three times per week, and my couſin, Mrs. Macaire, obtained one to admit her twice. I had ſent a requeſt to ſee my parents, but this my father alone could attend to; the fact was, (of which I was not informed till long after her death) my mother, not knowing what was become of me, had gone to the houſe of Jealous, and with all the tenderneſs and anxiety of a parent for a child in my ſituation, enquired what they knew concerning me; but ſhe was informed that "I was then in priſon, from whence ſhe "ſhould never expect me to remove, unleſs to proceed to "the gallows, where I was ſure to go, as Jealous himſelf had

" had found the inſtrument upon me, with which I intend-
" ed to kill the King."

The infamy of uttering ſuch fallacious reports, cannot but revolt, not alone the feeling, but every honeſt heart; my mother collected ſufficient fortitude to reach her home, but ſhe had not enough to reſiſt the ſhock: this was the occaſion of a ſevere fit of ſickneſs, which brought on the death of the tendereſt of mothers.

The ſtay of my friends (I found by this firſt viſit of my father's) was to be limited to a quarter of an hour, and ſeeing no one elſe, but the turnkey who brought in my proviſions, I was nearly ſhut up from the world. In conſequence of this I requeſted my friends to ſend me the public papers, but this the keeper refuſed, and in a manner which left no alternative than by an application to higher authority, I ſent the following letter to Juſtice Ford.

" *New Houſe of Correction, Nov.* 5, 1794.

" SIR,

" You having ſignified your wiſhes to accomodate me as well as the nature of my ſituation permitted, and the neceſſary precautions required.

" Hope you will find no impropriety in permitting me the uſe of the public newſpapers, which has been denied me here, Mr. Aris having an expreſs order to let no priſoner have them which order may be very neceſſary for the reclamation of felons, but truſt you will find (I hope very ſhortly) ſuch precautions unneceſſary for me.

" Beg you will favor me with an exception to this—joined to thoſe which the difference of my ſituation ſo neceſſarily required—if convenient, per bearer.

" You'll much oblige
" Your moſt obedient,
" P. T. LEMAITRE."

And, in conſequence, received the following anſwer, accompanied, from the Baſtile office, with the papers my friends had previouſly ſent.

" SIR,

" I have received your letter of the 5th inſtant, in which you deſire to have liberty to read the newſpapers.—I aſſure you that I do not ſee any impropriety in your being ſo accommodated, eſpecially as the priſoners committed to the Tower under the ſame ſpecies of warrant, and for the ſame offence, had that indulgence—but I remember, *that liberty was in conſequence of an order from the Privy Council*; *I* have no power in this inſtance, as, *ſtrictly ſpeaking*, the Privy Council alone can grant your requeſt.—I will take care that your wiſh ſhall be ſignified to their Lordſhips when they meet, and in the mean time I ſhould think Mr. Aris might, without any riſque, permit you to read them—

" I am, Sir,

" Your obedient &c. Servant,

" *Secretary of State's* " RICH. FORD."

" *Nov.* 7, 1794."

The next morning I began to peruſe them, when I received the following letter:

" SIR,

" After I wrote to you yeſterday, I gave your letter. containing a deſire to have the liberty of reading the newſpapers, to Mr. Cottrell, the clerk of the Privy Council, and begged him to ſtate your requeſt to the Lords, and obtain their order for that purpoſe.—I have this morning received a note from that gentleman, in which he informs me that their Lordſhips *have not thought it proper to comply with* your requeſt—it may be neceſſary to acquaint you, that any future application of a ſimilar nature muſt be made to the

the Privy Council, as I have no authority whatever in reſpect to perſons committed by that board.

" I am, Sir,

" *Secretary of State's Office,* " Your obedt. humb. ſervt.

" *Nov.* 8. " RICH. FORD."

Mr. LEMAITRE.

This letter the keeper more readily obeyed, as I underſtand I had hurt his pride by an application which entirely ſet aſide his deſpotic authority. In a very ſhort time I began to find myſelf much weakened from a want of exerciſe; for although I was allowed to walk two hours per day in a yard, it was ſeldom that I dared to profit by the indulgence (as they termed it); for I could not go even here without the uſual ceremony of being locked in, and therefore reduced to the neceſſity of ſtaying where I had once taken poſt, in defiance of the elements, and being at too great a diſtance from the part inhabited to make any one hear, it happened that I have remained in rain and cold 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 hours, and when unable, from the ſmall ſpace, to keep myſelf warm by exerciſe, had the mortification to ſee my fire extinguiſh, without being able to prevent it.

Having ſuffered much from ill health in conſequence of this confinement, I wrote the following letter to the Privy Council.

" MOST HONOURABLE LORDS,

" The extreme reſtrictions in which I am kept, determines me, at laſt, to addreſs your Lordſhips for redreſs; though ſupported till now by the moſt excellent of ſpirits (that ariſing from an irreproachable conſcience) I have reſiſted my inclinations, expecting to hear every day ſomething FAVOURABLE.—Which word, however, I beg may not be wrongly underſtood—I mean not a diſcharge, by

which our reputations will have no opportunity of being defended—but that *ſtrict inveſtigation* which is allowed by an *impartial trial*—by which our innocence may ſhew itſelf ſuperior to our enemies, and guilt receive its rewards.

" Two months are now elapſed ſince I was brutally torn by men (having, however, nothing but their form to diſtinguiſh them) from my friends, who are naturally ſhocked at the diabolical, abſurd, and infamous charges, ſo truly worthy of the inventor or inventors, being hardly able to credit ſo much daring diſſimulation in one head—be it as it may, concerted or otherways, I demand nothing but a ſpeedy opportunity of refuting it—and 'tis theſe hopes alone conſole them.

" Your Lordſhips informed me on my firſt examination, or rather before it, you was ſorry to ſay the charge was of a ſerious nature—I anſwered, I was conſcious of myſelf, and ready to anſwer any charges, and prove the infamy of any one who would dare to accuſe me. I will have, however, leſs trouble and more ſatisfaction than I expected—his infamy is too notorious to be doubted, and the public will only have renewed what they were before well acquainted with.

" If I may believe your Lordſhips were ſorry, (and I doubt the poſſibility of being otherways) I muſt naturally infer, the ſatisfaction will be greater on its being proved falſe, and if only *ſlightly ſuſpected* (for the more I reflect, the more I am confident your Lordſhips cannot ſincerely believe it) it muſt, then, be remembered, innocent individuals are kept from their friends, their families and buſineſs, on the mere accuſation of a villain, who ſought nothing but revenge, and, perhaps, intereſt.—My being detained from my buſineſs is of the more importance to me than to the others, as while they loſe the profits, I likewiſe loſe the advantages I was gaining by my attention—not being yet conſummate in my knowledge thereof—this I believe,

lieve, from your Lordſhips characters, will be ſufficient, were I not to ſuppoſe your public characters equally required a *ſpeedy iſſue*.

" In mean time, for the preſervation of my health, I muſt beg my confinement may be leſs painful, and leſs ſtrict; that I may have permiſſion to walk within the exterior wall of my priſon, being above thirty feet high, and having but one gate, which is conſtantly ſhut, believe there will be no fears entertained—the priſoners in the Tower having had the ſame liberty; and beg your Lordſhips will conſider, youth requires even more exerciſe than another perſon and I have been abſolutely recommended, by the faculty, ſtrong exerciſe, as the only preventative for a conſumptive complaint for which I have ſome time paſt been attended, and which I again feel.

" Likewiſe that my friends may have *free acceſs*—that I may immediately know when the bill is preferred againſt me, which I truſt will be very ſhortly, having anxiouſly expected to hear the ſame every day.

" Beg likewiſe your Lordſhips will permit me the uſe of the public papers, which though I have well conſidered I cannot perceive any impropriety therein; and I believe the reaſon of their having been denied me, was rather from having miſapplied, than from wiſhing to deprive me of the ſmall ſatisfaction I may have in their peruſal: not imagining them more dangerous for me, than for the priſoners in the tower.

" As a part of my infamous charge is founded on forgery, muſt beg the immediate return of this; on which, as I truſt your Lordſhips will inſtantly ſee the propriety, I will no farther comment.

" Am extremely ſorry having troubled your Lordſhips ſo long, but beg your Lordſhips will immediately conſider

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my confinement and health, with the different requeſts, for which I remain, in anxious expectation,

"Your Lordſhips moſt humble,

"And moſt obedient ſervant,

New Houſe of Correction, P. T. LEMAITRE."

Nov. 24, 1794. *Third Month.*

To the Lords of Privy Council.

And not knowing in what manner to addreſs it to the clerk, as recommended by Mr. Ford, I encloſed it in another to that Gentleman as follows:

"SIR,

"Am extremely ſorry being obliged to trouble you again, but not knowing how to get the incloſed remitted to the Privy Council, hope you will again indulge me with a remittal.

"At ſame time beg you will accept my moſt ſincere acknowledgements for your late endeavours to procure me the public papers, for which, though fruitleſs, I hold myſelf in equal obligation.

"As you may often hear, and it is mentioned in the incloſed, my complaints of the *unwarrantable and brutal* preceedings on my apprehenſion, which I likewiſe mentioned on my firſt appearance before the Lords, beg leave to inform you at ſame time, though determined to expoſe them, I have here added the goodneſs and manly behaviour I have experienced from you ſince, my gratitude for which makes me aſſure you, and the public, I ſincerely believe thoſe proceedings were without your knowledge.

"As part of the diabolical charges of my infamous accuſers is *founded on forgery*, beg the immediate return of this and my laſt—of which, as I am confident you will immediately perceive the juſtice and propriety, need no farther comment.

"Am

" Am almoſt aſhamed to beg you will likewiſe favor me with the anſwer of the Lords to the incloſed as ſoon as poſſible, and remain for the ſame and all favors,

" Sir,

" Your moſt humble,

" and moſt obedient ſervant,

New Houſe of Correction, " P. T. LEMAITRE."
Nov. 24,—Third Month.

R. Ford, Eſq.

Two days after this, the keeper came into my cave, and throwing a letter upon the table ſaid, " I had mentioned untruths in my letter, and, had he obſerved them before, they ſhould not have paſſed;" I told him I did not underſtand ſuch language, nor his meaning; he was going away mumbling, that I had complained of a want of exerciſe, and that I might content myſelf, as I ſhould not have any more; when I anſwered, that if that was an untruth, I could only add, that I never deſired to ſpeak more faithfully; I then looked at the letter as follows.

" Sir,

" I have received your letter of the 24th, together with your application to the Lords of the Privy Council, which I have delivered to the office belonging to that board, where it ought to have been originally directed - as ſoon as I obtain any anſwer I will forward it to you—in the interim, as you ſay your health has ſuffered much from the nature of your confinement, I have written to Mr. Aris to deſire him to permit you to walk, every day, in the place you mention; and I have no doubt but that the Privy Council will continue that indulgence.

" With regard to " the unwarrantable and brutal pro-" ceedings on your apprehenſion;" by which I imagine you mean the behaviour of the perſons who executed the

Duke

Duke of Portland's warrant, I can only ſay, that if any ſuch took place, they were entirely unauthorized by any directions from me, or any perſon connected with this office.

" I have encloſed the letter you ſent me before—excepting during the time it was before the Privy Council, it has not been out of my poſſeſſion.

" I am, Sir,

Secretary of State's Office,
Nov. 26, 1794.

" Your obedient ſervant,
" RICH. FORD."

To Mr. Lemaitre.

Having little doubts, but that the Privy Council would confirm the permiſſion for walking where I had requeſted, I ſent the turnkey to the keeper to acquaint him that I wiſhed to walk out; but he quickly returned, having received the anſwer " Tell him he ſha'nt go," and three days after this, the turnkey brought in the following letter,

" Sir,

" Encloſed I tranſmit you the petition which you ſent to the Lords of the Privy Council, as well as the letter which received from you, both of which you expreſs a deſire to have returned into your hands.

" I am directed to ſignify to you, that their Lordſhips have made enquiry of Mr. Aris, the keeper of the New Houſe of Correction, reſpecting your accommodation, and the means which are allowed you for taking air and exerciſe, and, from his report, they are of opinion that you enjoy both thoſe benefits in as great a degree as your ſituation renders poſſible.

" I am alſo to acquaint you, that their Lordſhips do not think it right to allow you the uſe of the newſpapers, or to permit you to have an unlimited communication with your acquaintance; though, if there are any particular perſons

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whom you may have occaſion to ſee, they will be ready to attend to any requeſt you may, in future, make them upon that head. I beg the favor of you to make any future application, which you may wiſh to preſent to their Lordſhips, through the channel of the clerk of the Privy Council. I do this leſs to avoid any trouble to myſelf, than to put you in a way of more regular and direct communication with that board.

" I am, Sir,

Secretary of State's, " Your obedient ſervant,

Nov. 29, 1794. " RICH. FORD."

To Mr. Lemaitre.

By this I found, ſubmiſſion muſt be the order of the day with me, as injuſtice was with miniſters. The firſt time I ſaw the keeper, after this difference, was on Sunday the 7th of December, in the chapel, where I had regularly attended. Paſſing by him, in the way to my ſeat, he told me he had received complaints of my behaviour during the ſervice: confident no ſuch thing had occurred, and hurt at the mention of it before the priſoners, I begged that he would tell the perſons, ſo complaining, to addreſs themſelves to me; the ill ſucceſs of his malicious inſinuations hurting his conſequence, he threatened, that if I did not behave better, I ſhould not return, which I immediately told him was very immaterial, and was ordered back to my cave.—I mention this circumſtance for the better explanation of that treatment which I ſhortly after received from this man; comments will be unneceſſary, and by deſcribing it in as few words as I am able, I ſhall leave the reſt to the generous feelings of a humane people.

Before a fortnight had elapſed from the time of my apprehenſion, grief had made too much progreſs to permit my mother to viſit me; the loſs of her peace of mind, had occaſioned the ſubſequent and natural loſs of her ſtrength,

no conſolation could be adminiſtered but by a ſpeedy releaſe from the anguiſh of ſuſpence, which kept, without intermiſſion, preying upon her ſpirits and health. My letter of Nov. 24, was calculated for that purpoſe, and gave ſome momentary hopes; but ſuch was the love of juſtice in my perſecutors, that theſe hopes were ſcarcely conceived than again loſt, and conſequently replaced by that anguiſh, which ended alone with her life; for finding juſtice unattainable, that no reliance could be made on an oppreſſive miniſtry, ſhe gave herſelf up to affliction; and although our proſecutors loſt their object with regard to myſelf, yet were they too ſucceſsful in their general views for deſtruction, in the perſon of my unfortunate mother.

On Saturday, the 20th of December, thirteen weeks after my apprehenſion, and four from having wrote and been refuſed trial by the Privy Council, my couſin called upon me. Enquiring concerning my mother's health, I was informed of theſe firſt fruits of the injuſtice of my oppreſſors; I believe it will be equally unneceſſary as impracticable to deſcribe my feelings on this occaſion; but let the friends of mankind, I appeal not to the ariſtocracy, (whom I equally deſpiſe and deteſt) let the honeſt heart conſider only for an inſtant, and he'll have ſome faint ideas of the agony of my mind:—convinced that ſhe had fallen a victim to my detenſion, and that although I was not the immediate cauſe, that it was the affliction occaſioned by the perſecutions againſt me which had cauſed her death. During the ſtay of my couſin I was, but with difficulty, kept from ſinking under the preſſure of grief, which the clerk perceiving (for no one was permitted to ſee me until the keeper or his clerk was preſent) ordered another priſoner to ſtay and aſſiſt me on their departure, who not finding himſelf competent for the taſk, as I was then in ſtrong fits, called in his comrade, neither of whom believed, from my falling from one fit into another, that I ſhould

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ever recover, but that I ſhould follow that mother I lamented, into eternity. The keeper was not, at that moment, within; but returning in a few minutes, the clerk informed him of the circumſtance, and that he had left directions that I ſhould be taken care of. This Being, now, without any conſideration of the probable conſequences, immediately ſends orders "That I ſhould be left alone, and the priſoners locked in their own apartment," which orders the turnkey was compelled to obey. The vigour of youth unexpectedly overcame every attack; and, being left ſeated in one corner of my cave, happily not very ſpacious, I ſoon crawled to my bed at the other end. The priſoners aforementioned had the room above me, and they had kindly reſolved to ſtay with me during the night; theſe perſons, as is frequently found, although priſoners for tranſgreſſing the laws, had more humanity than him to whoſe care they were entruſted, and did all they could, by mulling wine, &c. to repair the keeper's barbarity; and it is to their goodneſs I owe my preſent exiſtence.

My couſin had promiſed to call the next day (Sunday) but, too anxious to wait until the afternoon, to know how I had paſſed the night, had requeſted, and obtained permiſſion of Mr. Brian, the clerk, that her partner, Mr. Deſvignes, ſhould ſee me in the morning. This Aris, the keeper, refuſed; and, what is ſtill more ſtrange, not only was my couſin refuſed admittance this day, but likewiſe the four following days, and what ſhe could learn at the gate concerning me, made her only the more anxious, ſuſpecting that I was, poſſibly, worſe than they choſe to inform her. At laſt, to aſcertain the real ſtate of my health, an aged and afflicted father ſuffering himſelf, under a ſevere indiſpoſition, was obliged to tear himſelf from the body of his deceaſed wife, before even the laſt rites could be paid, to be certain whether (as he expreſſed himſelf) "He had not to lament, at the ſame moment, the loſs of a wife and a ſon."

As ſoon as I was at all recovered, I ſent to the Privy Council the following letter.

"My Lords,

"If I appear too importunate, I intreat you to reflect how ſeverely my character has ſuffered, and continues to ſuffer, by the myſtery in which it is involved; and I truſt you will pardon an impatience which I can no longer reſtrain, to have the truth of the charges againſt me publicly inveſtigated.

"The alarm of my commitment, and the infamy attending it, were ſo univerſal, that I can ſcarcely hope, even from a public trial, that my innocence will ever be ſo generally publiſhed; I beg of you, however, that I may no longer be denied that redreſs, the hope of which has alone ſupported me under a complication of misfortunes hardly capable of addition.

"Surely there has been time enough for your Lordſhips to diſcover what credit is due to the evidence of a notorious and abandoned villain, whoſe infamy you are better acquainted with than I am; and I ſhould think there has been time enough to develope the abſurdity of a pretended plot, which could never have entered the head of any but a madman. It is ſhameful ſo idle a charge, and ſuch an accuſer as Upton (whom I myſelf drove with ſhame from the Correſponding Society, the very night he pretends to have received his tube from me) ſhould almoſt as effectually have deſtroyed me as actual guilt could have done.

"It is now fifteen weeks he has enjoyed a triumph in the ſuſpicions thrown on my character; he has confined me fifteen weeks from the ſight of an unhappy mother, who I am told was lately buried. My Lords, I believe the agony of ſuſpence has not ſerved as a cordial to her, but I have ſtill a father, an aged and weak man, I beſeech you to have compaſſion on him.

"I wiſh

"I wiſh not to ſpeak of my perſonal ſufferings, but the ſeverity of the calumnies to which I am expoſed, with the late irreparable loſſes which I lay under, will, I truſt, excite the moſt weighty conſiderations from your Lordſhips: neither will I repeat the requeſts I lately made, and which were generally refuſed, except that of returning the letter by which they were conveyed, and the permiſſion of ſeeing my friends, which was partially granted, the former requeſt I muſt again repeat for the ſame reaſons, and profit by the latter to beg your Lordſhips will give permiſſion for Mr. Henry Richter to be admitted here to ſee me—the other requeſts (refuſed) which were to alleviate, in part, my ſolitary confinement, with the ſimple one of permiſſion for the newſpapers (for which refuſal I have vainly endeavoured to conceive the reaſon) are now trivial circumſtances and any partial alteration of them I ſhall not beg of your Lordſhips.

"I entreat that a ſpeedy end may be put to the whole buſineſs, but I *deſire* it may not be got rid of by any other means, than by a public trial—I think I have a right to demand this redreſs, from the laws of my country, and I aſk it of your Lordſhips, to whom thoſe laws, and the ſecurity of every man in the country is at preſent entruſted.

"I am, my Lords,

"Your Lordſhips' moſt obedient ſervant,

New Houſe of Correction, "P. T. LEMAITRE."

Jan. 9, 1795.

To the Honourable the Lords of the Privy Council.

To this letter no anſwer was returned, I therefore reſolved I would no more apply to thoſe, whoſe ears were ſhut to the calls of truth, and every humane ſentiment, but await patiently that period, when miniſters had no longer the power, or their own ſafety and exiſtence would *not* permit them to continue our confinement.

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My health, by confinement and troubles, had much ſuffered; a pain in my ſide, occaſioned by the ſituation of my bed near the damp walls, gave me great alarm, apprehending its fixing in that ſpot, the more, as it baffled every attempt of the Baſtille Doctor to remove it; I knew the apartment on the third ſtory was unoccupied, which, being elevated, was preferable to my cave on the ground floor. It had a boarded floor, and the walls were plaiſtered, neither did maſſive bars inſult the eyes inceſſantly. I had requeſted, before the hard weather became very ſevere, to be removed to this place, which I had frequently repeated, and likewiſe for a bedſtead, but without ſucceſs. At laſt, having given up every idea of a removal, the keeper, ſhortly after my mother's death, informed me I was to have the ſituation I requeſted. This ſituation was pleaſant, and had a proſpect of the adjacent country, which, notwithſtanding the ſeverity of the ſeaſon, was to me a conſiderable recreation, being able once more to ſee, although at a diſtance, my fellow citizens walking without the (viſible) ſhackles of bondage.

I had permiſſion from the Privy Council to ſend any letters to my friends after their having been inſpected by the keeper, yet I learnt that ſeveral had not been received, and upon complaining of this, I was told, ſome were too ambignous, with other excuſes equally frivolous. One letter I had written a few days after my mother's death, to my couſin's partner, Mr. Deſvignes, which, being of conſequence, I had been particular in writing, was placed in the ſame liſt. I have mentioned the indiſpoſition of my father; for ſix weeks ſince the death of my mother, except that once aforementioned, he had not been able to viſit me, and my youngeſt ſiſter, having ſeveral times applied, was but once admitted (by the clerk). The conſequence was, that my linen, &c. being left at the gate, inſtead of being brought to me, was never after ſeen. My couſin was now

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the only perſon who could profit by the permiſſion of the Council for admittance, but ſhe was a fortnight, and three weeks (notwithſtanding frequent application) by the keeper's neglect (wilful or not) without ſeeing me. Theſe aggravating circumſtances induced me to let him know I was not going quietly to ſubmit to his impoſitions, I therefore ſat down to a letter to acquaint my couſin that I ſhould complain to the council, which I ſent to the office to be forwarded, as follows:

"*Britiſh Baſtille, Feb.* 7, 1795.

"DEAR COUSIN,

"My laſt deſignation from "The Houſe of Affliction" allowed but one more ſtep, and that ſtep I have, I'll aſſure you, taken but with the utmoſt reluctancy; but between affliction and a Baſtille there can be no heſitation, as the exiſtence of the one naturally portends the other at no great diſtance, and its exiſtence can be no longer doubted when men can be iniquitouſly ſhut up, without even thoſe hopes of a redreſs not refuſed even in the moſt barbarous ages.—As, however, the hour of the poſt is at no great diſtance, I muſt proceed to the ſubject of my letter:—I expected the pleaſure of ſeeing you yeſterday, but do ſuppoſe it was not convenient (as I conjecture you are no longer refuſed admittance on your fixed days) I wiſhed then to beg you would inform my ſiſter Couta I have no clean linen, and beg ſhe would ſend it here to the gate, by my brother Thomas, to-morrow morning (Sunday) as ſoon as ſhe pleaſes. I underſtand my ſiſter Fanny has been here on Monday laſt, and could not gain admittance, ſhe then ſaid ſhe would again call in a day or two, which, as I ſuppoſe, ſhe has again done, and was again refuſed; I beg you will favor me with an enquiry, if you can conveniently, by Tueſday, (when I hope to ſee you) if ſhe did actually apply again, and if refuſed, whether it was that ſhe ſhould

not

not be allowed admittance—which, however, I do not immediately ſuſpect, as, by my unhappy father's indiſpoſition, I ſhould be thereby excluded all communication, but by letter, which I conjecture is not the wiſh of the Privy Council; of courſe I would deſire an order immediately. Beg you will excuſe the trouble, but other application would be uſeleſs, as you are now the only friend I can expect.

"I beg you will kindly remember me to all friends, particularly thoſe enquiring.

"I am, dear Couſin,

"Your moſt affectionate and obedient,

Saturday Noon. "P. T. LEMAITRE."

To Mrs. Macaire.

This letter my couſin informed me ſhe had not received; I therefore ſent for the keeper to come and explain his conduct, which he did on the 24th of February, and returning it ſaid, he would throw it in the fire for half a farthing; I told him I believed he knew better than to do any ſuch thing, and taking up the letter to Mr. Deſvignes, aforementioned, (and which he now likewiſe returned me) I aſked him, for what reaſons he ſtopped it? This, after looking it all over, he could not reſolve, and, putting it aſide, wiſhed to turn the ſubject of converſation; but as I would not be wantonly oppreſſed without an explanation, I urged the queſtion, put the letter again into his hands, and demanded what excuſe he could have for ſtopping a letter which I had been particularly careful ſhould not be found objectionable. At laſt, after a diligent ſearch, he gave for the ſole reaſon my having denominated the place of my confinement "The Houſe of Affliction." When I recollected the time of writing it, and conſidered that he himſelf well knew that grief had weakened me inſomuch that I was then ſcarcely able to hold a pen, and that ſo

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innocent a deſcription of the place, as I then felt it, ſhould be objected to, and cauſe the detention of a letter; it awakened my anger, and with ſome degree of warmth I told him, I was ſurpriſed at his producing nothing better than a *frivolty* of that nature, and that I ſhould certainly complain to the Privy Council of his behaviour and uſage. Seeing my firmneſs he began to draw in, and aſſured me that my ſiſter ſhould be admitted, as well as my taylor, whom I had ſent for to meaſure me for mourning, but who had ſeveral times applied in vain for admiſſion; and (notwithſtanding his aſſurances) he was *never* permitted to ſee me. Other circumſtances are related in the following letter ſent to the Privy Council ſhortly after this interview.

"My Lords,

"When I laſt wrote to you, it was under a ſevere ſenſe of the injuſtice I had ſuffered; ruined in my reputation, becauſe the public were to be amuſed by a plot, and ſuffering in my health, by a long and ſolitary confinement, becauſe there had been no evidence found that could, with any decency, be brought into a court of juſtice; having every reaſon to believe that the cruel policy which had made me its victim, had deprived me of an unhappy mother, I became impatient, and demanded of your Lordſhips that redreſs I had a right to expect from the laws, for your Lordſhips had the laws in your own hands: you returned me no anſwer, and I determined to trouble you no more; but I am under the neceſſity of applying to you again. Upon complaining to Mr. Aris, the governor, that ſeveral of my letters had been detained till they were rendered of no uſe, and even kept back when I requeſted to have them returned to me, he delivered me two detained by him becauſe I had ventured to ſport with my mis-

fortune, and given the place of my confinement a title which it is not my fault that it deſerves; at the ſame time he informed me that my letters were ſtopped by magiſtrates viſiting the priſon, becauſe their worſhips conſidered them a "pack of nonſenſe." When I appealed to your Lordſhips authority, and requeſted that your orders ſhould be followed, you will be as much ſurpriſed as I was at the anſwer I received.—I was told, that if I behaved "amiſs" I ſhould be ſhut up in one of the cells of this priſon, in which, if it is true that it was conſtructed on the plan of the benevolent Mr. Howard, he deſerved to have rotted: theſe charitable dungeons, formed for the reformation of the vicious, are compoſed of bricks and ſtones, without fire, or any furniture but ſtraw, and with no other barrier againſt the weather than iron grates. Not chuſing to truſt myſelf entirely to the humanity of a perſon who has once already (though in ſtrict obedience to your Lordſhips directions for my ſolitary confinement) ordered me to be left alone when in violent fits upon the news of my unhappy mother's death, ſuffering me to fall out of one fit into another till my ſtrength was exhauſted. I requeſt of your Lordſhips, as I am convinced you cannot believe me guilty of the crime charged againſt me, to prevent my confinement, cloſe and wearifome as it is, from being rendered more irkſome by inſolent, unjuſt, and illegal menaces. I believe I ſhall but anticipate your Lordſhips humanity, by intreating more explicit orders concerning any letters I may have occaſion to write, which I hope will be obſerved as ſtrictly as thoſe for excluding my friends, which have been ſo rigidly enforced, that, although my father has been confined by illneſs for ſix weeks, ſince my mother's death, and prevented from viſiting me, my youngeſt ſiſter could obtain admiſſion but once, though ſhe applied ſeveral time .

"I have

"I have only to entreat your Lordſhips to return this and the laſt of my letters, and remain, my Lords,

"Your Lordſhips moſt obedient ſervant,

New Houſe of Correction, "P. T. LEMAITRE."

Mar. 10, 1795.—*Twenty-fifth Week.*

To the Lords of the Privy Council.

That the keeper ſhould not again tell me "had he obſerved my letter he would not have permitted it to paſs," I ſent it, as uſual, open to the office, to be forwarded as he thought proper; this was before noon, and at ſix o'clock the turnkey informed me he had orders "to remove me down to my former apartment." I had expected from the keeper a viſit to prevent his character's being expoſed, but not that he would act ſo cruelly. After having conſidered the order, at eight, I ſent the following note.

"SIR,

"I am juſt informed, by one of your ſervants, you have given orders for my removal to the room I lately occupied; from which (after ſeven weeks conſideration) I was removed to this, in which I am at preſent, on account of its having nothing but a ſtone floor. You know the conſtant ill ſtate of my health while I was there, which my ſucceſſor, Mr. Roſs, likewiſe experienced, occaſioned by its dampneſs. I muſt likewiſe inform you, I am not in a good ſtate of health at preſent: if, however, it is your deſire that I ſhould remove, I beg you will let me know immediately from yourſelf—one word to that purpoſe, at the bottom of the preſent, will be ſufficient, not wiſhing to trouble you to come here; but as you are alone reſponſible for my treatment whilſt here, it is from you alone I ſhall receive my orders; if you recollect, I was before informed perſonally. I am, Sir,

"Your moſt obedient ſervant,

March 10, 1795. "P. T. LEMAITRE."

At half paſt ten I received a verbal confirmation of his former orders, and was once more interred in my ſepulchral lodgings.

The difficulty of admiſſion being ſo great, my father applied to Mr. Ford to obtain an order for my ſiſter, who had more leiſure, and could, therefore, the better ſacrifice three or four hours to the very frequent, and ineffectual applications, to which the keeper's ill nature compelled them to ſubmit.

This he obtained, and ſhe came, accordingly with my couſin (who had been previouſly refuſed four times). To this order Aris could not refuſe a compliance, but enraged at the order thus obtained, he gave orders that they ſhould ſtay no longer than *five minutes* preciſely. My couſin wiſhed to apply, perſonally, to the Council for redreſs, but I told her I would write to Mr. Ford, which I did the next day as follows.

" Sir,

" If I attempt to intrude again, and requeſt any interference which may ſtill remain in your power, it is from a confidence that your humanity (however unſeconded) will excuſe the trouble I may occaſion, by my preſenting my preſent ſituation to your attention; and I ſhall forbear relating my own feelings, as I truſt they will exceed your's, only by being the immediate ſufferer.

" My laſt to the Privy Council, reſpecting that treatment which I believe no one has attempted to refute or deny, might perhaps have been longer, had I ſuſpected there was not ſufficient to excite their immediate attention. That ſame evening I was ordered to re-occupy an apartment, which had before ſeverely affected my health, equally with that of my ſucceſſor, who actually kept his bed in conſequence. I ſhould have begged that gentleman belonging to your office, I lately ſaw through my windows,

to

to have troubled you with this report, but I did not inſtantly recollect him: I am now ſtill more diſtreſſed as my friends, poſſeſſing orders from their Lordſhips, are continually complaining of their inutility, never getting admittance until the third or fourth application; and yeſterday, it being my couſin's fourth time, ſhe, with my ſiſter, was ordered to ſtay no longer than five minutes preciſely. I inſtantly declared, notwithſtanding my former ill ſucceſs, I would again apply to their Lordſhips to requeſt their orders might be enforced, but my ſiſter informed me it was the particular deſire of my father I ſhould not. I am therefore, obliged to entreat that influence which your goodneſs aſſures me will not be neglected; likewiſe the return of the preſent when convenient.

"I remain, Sir,

New Houſe of Correction, "Your moſt obedient ſervant,

April 8, 1795—*Twenty-ninth Week.* "P. T. LEMAITRE."

R. Ford, Eſq.

Mark the continued effrontery of this Aris; well knowing what degree of criminalty would attach to himſelf, he threw the letter into his deſk ((immediately after its peruſal) and exclaimed "There, Lemaitre, that is the manner in which your letter ſhall be forwarded to the Secretary of State's." I depend not upou one individual alone for the veracity of this information, (which I did not obtain till after my liberation) but the manner in which the clerk aſſured me it had been ſent, gave riſe to doubts, which the following letter only aſſiſted in confirming.

"*Whiethall, April* 25, 1795.

"SIR,

"I have received the encloſed papers from the Clerk of the Privy Council, to whom I gave them, by your deſire, as ſoon as you ſent them to me.—As I have not had any

directions

directions reſpecting them, I conclude, that whatever determination their Lordſhips have come to in the matter, you have already been made acquainted with. I now return them to you, as I perceive you expreſſed a wiſh that they ſhould not remain out of your hands longer than it was neceſſary.

" I am, Sir,
" Your obedient ſervant,
" R. CH. FORD."

To Mr. Lemaitre.

With this letter I received, as therein mentioned, my two laſt letters to the Privy Council; but the total ſilence of Mr. Ford clearly ſhews there could be no knowlcdge of my letter of the 8th inſtant.

Two days after this, I ſaw my father, who, with joy in his countenance, told me he had " good news at laſt." I enquired his meaning, when he informed me, that having met Mr. Ford by accident, he had told my father he was the perſon he was ſeeking, and that if he would call upon me, and obtain an application to the Privy Council for liberation on bail, he had no doubt of my ſucceſs. That this ſhould the better take me at a nonplus and bring me over to their views before I could ſee through their artifice, my father is likewiſe told, that " if he has not the ſame at the Treaſury within the ſpace of two hours, it would be of no ſervice;" although, as I remarked, if he had not thus accidentally ſeen him, more than two hours muſt neceſſarily have elapſed, ſuppoſing him then in the very act of calling upon my father for the purpoſe of informing him. I will not, however, aſſert that Mr. Ford himſelf was the author of this ſcheme, for I believe it came from the Council and Pitt as the Prime Miniſter, Mr. Ford acted, in his place, with as much humanity aud real honeſty, as he poſſibly could, conſidering his connections.

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In this information I ſaw none of that excellence my father ſo readily imagined; I was afraid, that as the Privy Council had, by our confinement, ſerved their turn, and ſuppoſed, perhaps, our patriotiſm ſomewhat abated, that they only wiſhed now to get rid of us in as quiet a manner as poſſible, and that all hopes of a public inveſtigation, and any opportunity of defending my character by public trial would be naturally, by this means, avoided; and therefore refuſed a compliance with the requeſt of my father, at leaſt until I ſhould have obtained better advice than my own ſolitary judgment could afford me; nor could my father perſuade me to comply, until after an hour's entreaty, or rather orders, for a la[illegible] his impatience became ſo ſtrong that he actually commanded me, and I ſent the following letter:

"My Lords,

"There is now ſix weeks ſince I laſt troubled your Lordſhips with any requeſt. Until the return of my two laſt letters, on Saturday, I ſtill entertained hopes of an anſwer ſomewhat more ſatisfactory than thoſe I had hitherto obtained. Theſe having been returned without any, my health ſtill ſuffering as ſeverely as before, and imagining your Lordſhips have certainly forgot the length of time I have been in confinement, makes me reſolve on an importunity, otherways contrary to my inclination, by laying my caſe again before your Lordſhips. Apprehended on the 27th of September, 1794, I have, uninterruptedly, continued declining, ſince that period, in conſequence, ſeverely weakened; which, with an apparent ſettled complaint in my ſide, giving me ſevere apprehenſions, I muſt again beg your Lordſhips conſideration, and either to be put upon a ſpeedy trial, or be admitted to bail. I have only

only to entreat, likewiſe, the return of the preſent, and remain, my Lords,

Houſe of Correction, " Your obedient humble ſervant,
April 28, 1795. " P. T. LEMAITRE."

To the Lords of the Privy Council.

And ſix days after the above I received the following anſwer:

" *Whitehall, May* 3, 1795.

" SIR,

" I have ſubmitted to the Lords of his Majeſty's Privy Council your application of the 29th of April laſt, in which you deſire permiſſion to be releaſed upon bail, or brought to a ſpeedy trial for the charge for which you are now in confinement; and I am directed by their Lordſhips to ſignify to you that, as you cannot be immediately tried, they do not think it improper that you ſhould be bailed upon entering into a recognizance of £200 yourſelf, with two ſureties in £50 each, for your perſonal appearance, to anſwer ſuch indictment as may be found againſt you on account of ſuch charge.

" I am, Sir,
" Your obedient humble ſervant,
" RICH. FORD."

Mr. P. T. Lemaitre.

When I returned the following reply the ſame day:

" MY LORDS,

" I have been acquainted, by a letter of Mr. Ford of the 2nd of May, of your Lordſhips acceptance of my laſt application for liberation on bail, on condition of giving ſureties for my future appearance, myſelf in £200, and two

two of £50 each, which I accept, and am ready to attend your Lordſhips pleaſure when the ſame ſhall be convenient,

" I am,

May 2, 1795. " Your moſt obedient ſervant,

" P. T. LEMAITRE."

The Thurday following this, a diſcharge was ſent and ſhewn to me by the keeper, but it was not until the Saturday evening that I was finally diſcharged, when I was taken before Juſtice Lawrence, at Serjeant's Inn, and there, on the 9th day of May, 1795 (juſt two and thirty weeks from my apprehenſion) did I, after paying one guinea and half-a-crown, (which the keeper demanded for ſerving the Habeas) return again to my anxious friends.

Reſtored again to ſociety, to my relations and friends, the ſcenes, in which I had been ſo material a ſufferer ſeemed to me like a dream. I could ſcarce believe, when ſitting at my place in the work-ſhop, that I had been taken from that very work-ſhop, carried before the Privy Council, and examined by a ſet of men ſuppoſed, from their ſtations, to be much ſuperior in wiſdom to their neighbours; that, after this, I had been confined in diſmal cells, been ſubject to the tyranny of a jailer, and charged with the guilt of High Treaſon. All this appeared like a tale in the Arabian Nights. I was to have killed the King with a poiſoned arrow. Fools! What poiſon have we efficacious enough for this purpoſe? What chance could I have of taking aim at the perſon of the firſt magiſtrate? What end could it anſwer to take away his life? George the Fourth would have ſucceeded George the Third: and feeling as great deteſtation as any perſon at the idea of aſſaſſinating a fellow creature, I know not of any motive

to induce me to drive the ſovereign from his throne before his time.

Yet this idle tale, if not invented by the miniſtry, was ſuppoſed by it credible; and induſtriouſly propagated throughout the nation. Convinced by the authority which ſupported this ſilly tale, a Divine expreſſed his ſorrow to my couſins, that ſo wicked a being as myſelf ſhould be born in his pariſh: and thus without proof, and without a trial, have I been ſtigmatized by all the arts, which a cowardly miniſter or venal newſpapers could deviſe.

Yet what end could all this parade of examinations and impriſonments anſwer? I ſee only one way to account for them. If a young man, under twenty, could harbour the deſign of killing the King, what a ſhocking age muſt we live in! Mr. Pitt had aſſerted that there was a plot in the country to overturn the ſtate. There were people to believe him. He had eſtabliſhed the reign of confidence, and the reign of terror. How much were both increaſed when it was known that he ſat in council on the ſuppoſed aſſaſſin! Much allowance muſt be made, certainly, for the multitude which believes; for it cannot conceive that men high in office ſhould form a deliberate plan to deceive a nation, or give their ſanction to one eminently abſurd, and formed by others, their inferiors in rank and abilities. Theſe things cannot be conceived by people in general: but I, who have been before theſe great men, who have heard their queſtions, and ſeen their countenances, I can believe all this and much more. I can believe, that the man, who was petulent, fierce, overbearing, inſolent in examining the Caſe Maker taken from his furnace; would be only a bully in his negotiations with inferior courts or the dupe of every power, which gratified his pride by a pretended acquieſcence in his ill-concerted meaſures.

But let us ſuppoſe for a moment, that Upton was the inventor of this plot. What are the circumſtances related

to the Privy Council, which could connect our names together? We were both members of the Correſponding Societies, had from certain occurrences in them a violent diſpute together, which was carried ſo far on his ſide, that he ſent me a challenge. Not having thoſe ideas of honour, which people who pretend to rank, and faſhion, and liberality, and gentlemanſhip, are, I underſtand, required to poſſeſs, not having that principle of honour, which leads them to cut their neighbour's throat for a trifling offence, when they do not ſcruple to ruin their tradeſmen by a refuſal to pay their juſt debts, I looked upon Upton as worthy only to hold a place with Burke and his knights of chivalry, laughed at his challenge and treated him with the contempt which his conduct deſerved. Yet ſuch was the man, with whom I was ſuppoſed to be connected: and of his character, and the proceedings of the Correſponding Societies againſt him, the miniſtry could not be ignorant.

The proceedings were grounded on the following circumſtances. In conſequence of the number of perſons apprehended in May 1794, under the accurſed ſyſtem of *eſpionage*, eſtabliſhed to the diſgrace of Engliſhmen in this country, a ſubſcription was opened by the Correſponding Societies for their widows and children, Among the perſons appointed to receive ſubſcriptions was Upton: but ſoon after his appointment, the Executive Committee learned, that he had been indicted for ſetting his own houſe on fire in order to defraud the inſurance office. The committee thought it neceſſary to make ſome enquiries on this tranſaction, and in conſequence of them to ſend him the following note:

"The committee are ſorry to acquaint Mr. Upton that the publication of his name as one of the receivers of ſubſcriptions, has given occaſion for ſome injurious reports, relative to a fire which happened ſome time ago in

Cold Bath Fields, and however unwilling they themſelves may be to give any credit to ſuch reports, yet they think the intereſts of thoſe families for whom the ſubſcription is raiſed, require that his name ſhould be omitted in the future bills; and as this will naturally excite ſome enquiries, by which Mr. Upton, however innocent, may be liable to receive injury; they think it will be prudent in him to withdraw his name from the ſociety."

This note enraged him to a great degree, and to find out the members of this committee, he wrote an anonymous letter to the General Committee, in hopes that it might bring up ſome perſon of the Inferior Committee, who alone could underſtand the tenor of the letter, and might, from his mode of explaining, diſcover himſelf to be a member. This letter was read, and after a conſiderable pauſe, a member aroſe and ſaid:

"He ſhould be ſorry to ſee any of their time longer waſted, as he believed it in his power to explode the myſtery, and relieve their anxiety;" he ſaid "If he was not miſtaken, the writer was then in the room, and as he doubted not but he could explain the reaſons for ſo writing, there remained, likewiſe, but little doubt, but that he would have honor and integrity enough to acknowledge whether he had actually written it."

The cry of "name him" made him again riſe; he ſaid "The two o's conjoined conſtituted an 8, Yard or *Alley* was of ſmall import, and as bell was often ſtyled *tell-tale*, it required only the addition of Temple-Bar in lieu of Poſtern Gate, the ſignature was ſtill eaſier explained;" he therefore believed, "Paſquin, No. oo, Tell-tale Alley, Poſtern Gate," was intended as "Upton, No. 8, Bell-Yard, Temple Bar." Upton was now aſked whether he was the writer, and in a contemptuous manner replied in the affirmative. Higgins moved his cenſure, which I ſeconded and ſupported; declaring his behaviour could be

compared

compared to nothing better than a *vile aſſaſſin*, who not daring to meet his adverſary openly, took this ſecret and baſe manner of ſtabbing him in the dark. This, with the following reflection, I call him "*that man*" for he does not deſerve the name of "*Citizen*," put him in a violent rage, and riſing he began to juſtify his conduct by reading a part of the afore-mentioned letter of diſmiſſal from the Executive Committee; taking care to avoid mentioning that part relative to the report which had occaſioned the ſame; and although the committee frequently called for the whole of the letter, he ſtill obſtinately refuſed to ſhew it, His anſwer to my compariſon of his behaviour was by making uſe of the moſt injurious terms, "fellow, wretch," and "blackguard:" in fact, his countenance behaviour and language gave him more the appearance of a madman, than of one who but ſo lately had kept the moſt profound ſilence. His perſonal attacks on myſelf induced me to riſe to reply. I aſſured the committee I believed the ſubject of his anger was the more painful to him, as it was a ſubject which his honor would not permit him to inveſtigate. Were it *falſe*, as he affirmed, he certainly would not avoid even the moſt ſtrict enquiries, when the cenſure muſt naturally fall upon the original aggreſſors. Were ſufficient cauſe and foundation wanting, his inſolence in attacking the other branches of the ſociety, when he had complaints (as he ſtyled them) only againſt one, and in ſuch an unmanly manner, appeared to me fully ſufficient to deſerve *cenſure*. The outrageous defence he had made rather inclined me to ſupport the queſtion more eagerly. The whole committee appeared equally ſenſible of his inſolent and unjuſt attacks; but the unruly conduct of Upton prevented many from delivering their ſentiments which he juſtly ſuſpected were not much to his credit. The committee being unanimous againſt him, to avoid the diſgrace of hearing his own cenſure, he was drawing towards

wards the door, when Higgins roſe to inform the committee that if they were about to cenſure Upton, they muſt be quick, as he appeared to be "hopping off." Chagrined at his deſigns being diſcovered, his mortification was conſiderably increaſed at Higgins's mode of expreſſing himſelf, "you wretch," ſaid Upton, "that is a reflection upon my natural infirmities, and you and more ſhall repent of it before many weeks are over." Higgins replied, "that if he was to retort upon him his own language, he would tell him *he lied*," but he would only ſay he did not ſpeak with the intentions imputed to him. Higgins was called *to order* and aſked pardon for having unwarily entered into what might be conſtrued as perſonalities. The queſtion for Upton's cenſure being now put, and carried nearly unanimouſly, Upton again aroſe, and reflecting upon the apology of Higgins, turned towards me and ſaid "he never could or *would* reſt ſatisfied until he had *revenged himſelf on Lemaitre*, and obtained ſatisfaction for the inſult he had occaſioned." Hearing which I gave him my addreſs, told him I was ever ready to anſwer for my conduct to any man or ſet of men. That it was plain I was not as he was, *led away* by my *anger and paſſion*, and that although Higgins had apologiſed *I would not*; having acted in the ſame conſiſtent manner I ever would on ſimilar occaſions; and ſhould ever ſtrive to prove the *dangerous tendency* of anonymous letters to ſociety in general, by whom they were *as juſtly as generally reprobated*; and concluded by obſerving, if this would ſatisfy him, I never had any the moſt remote intentions to do as he had done to me, to give any perſonal inſult, but my intentions were confined ſolely to reprobate his behaviour, which certainly deſerved rebuke, if not execration. As Upton continued ſtill unruly, a member moved his expulſion from the ſociety, which I likewiſe ſeconded, but it being repreſented that a little reflection

might

might give him a proper ſenſe of his conduct, this motion was withdrawn.

This diſpute produced the challenge in a letter from Upton; and on my laughing at this childiſh mode of ſettling it, he threatened to poſt me as a coward, and I aſſured ſome perſons from whom he learned my expreſſions, that if he dared to open his lips in any manner injurious to my reputation, I would immediately publiſh the whole proceedings and rely upon them for my juſtification. One of the perſons with whom Upton was more particularly acquainted, requeſted me to come to an accommodation if he could bring it about. I replied, that if Upton choſe to let the whole drop without further notice, the ſame conſiſtent ſilence ſhould be obſerved on my part; but that I never deſired to ſee him more. However I was requeſted to meet him the night after, and at this meeting it was propoſed by the company that I ſhould ſay, "If I had inſulted Upton perſonally, I was ſorry for having ſo acted:" that Upton ſhould in like manner ſay, "I am ſorry for having ſent the letters in queſtion." To this propoſal, ſince there was a poſitive ſatisfaction on his part, and I had never the leaſt intention of inſulting his perſon, I readily agreed, and on Upton's complying with the ſame, we ſhook hands, and agreed that the matter ſhould be buried in oblivion.

In converſation Upton ſhewed me a written motion, to confine the accuſation of any member of the ſociety to *direct proofs*, (mentioned on my examination) and having obtained my approbation of it, requeſted me to propoſe it. I told him he could make it equally with myſelf, but on his alledging that poſſibly it would come with more weight from me, I agreed. On ſeparation we ſhook hands again and I ſhould have been well content with keeping ſilence on this tranſaction, if the examination before the Privy Council had not rendered this ſtatement neceſſary.

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An intimacy could not be expected to take place between ſuch oppoſite characters as Upton and myſelf. I knew him before only as a member of the ſociety, and his conduct in it did not lead me to form a good opinion of him. Our diſpute aroſe from tranſactions in the ſociety, and in droping it I expected to have no farther concern with him than the affairs of the ſociety required; but I found that the arrow ſtill rankled in his mind, and on the next meeting of the diviſion perceived that he was determined on oppoſing me in every meaſure.

The next committee evening a motion was ſent for again cenſuring Upton for ſeeking to deſtroy the confidence of the ſociety in their Executive Committee. As he was not preſent, I moved the adjournment of the queſtion, giving notice that I ſhould oppoſe it, as I believed the ſubſtance was included in the firſt cenſure paſſed upon him. It was in conſequence adjourned, but Upton being preſent on the next evening, I moved *the order of the day* for Upton's cenſure, upon which he roſe with great warmth, reprobated the queſtion, and throwing out ſeveral ſevere reflections upon me, I called him to order, begged he would defer his obſervations until he heard whether the queſtion would be ſupported, which I much doubted. The queſtion was afterwards got rid of without any debate.

His anger had been very viſible on the former occaſion, but it was nothing comparable with that diſplayed on the meeting of the committee of September 25th, when I accuſed Metcalf the ſpy; and, on my motion, a deputation of four was appointed to enquire concerning the characters of this man and Groves. My accuſation, motions, and general proceedings of this evening moſtly concerning *ſpies and informers* met with the continued and warmeſt oppoſition from Upton.

A ſhort time after, this diſcovered what he had in his mind, and his intimacy with Groves the ſpy, and conduct

before

before the Privy Council clearly announce him to have been among the number of thoſe men, whom Mr. Pitt thought neceſſary to intrude into our ſociety, by way of thwarting its good intentions. What can ſpies poſſibly diſcover in the Correſponding Societies? We have announced to the world the whole object and deſign of our meetings. The end which we wiſh to obtain is Univerſal Suffrage and Annual Parliaments. The former becauſe as every man is under the neceſſity of paying ſome part of the taxation, he ought alſo to have ſome ſhare in the choice of the repreſentatives. Where perſons repreſent only a part of the people, they will conſult only the intereſt of a part of the people: where they repreſent the nation, they will conſult the good of the nation, not that of a few mercenary individuals. Repreſentatives are but men, and ſome may be guilty of betraying their truſts. Frequent elections will be therefore neceſſary both to remove the temptation of ſwerving from his duty as the repreſentative, and to give the people an opportunity of ſelecting thoſe men who are beſt qualified to manage their concerns. Theſe are plain truths at one time embraced by men of the greateſt diſtinction in this country, and rejected by them only when they had ſome baſe purpoſes to anſwer. The intention of the ſociety is to diffuſe them to the utmoſt of its power; and to the utmoſt of my power will I co-operate, heart and ſoul, with its endeavours. But I will not aſſaſſinate a king or a beggar to promote theſe ends. By firmneſs, reſolution, and prudence we ſhall gain our points: the people will learn the folly of taking bribes from infamous members of parliament, as it is only to take money with one hand, and to pay away twice as much with the other. Each man will ſee, that a bribe once in ſeven years will not pay his ſhare of the taxes for thoſe years; and he will ever ſee the folly and wickedneſs of truſting the concerns of a nation with any one, who enters on his truſt by

corrupting the morals of his conſtituents. He will ſee that on the preſent ſyſtem the honeſt, the induſtrious, and the frugal are made to pay for the profligate, the idle and the extravagant.

The ſteady purpoſe of my ſoul is not at all affected by my impriſonment, and every member of the Correſponding Societies, and every reader of this narrative will, I hope, be led to examine, to the utmoſt, the grounds of my determination; and prepare himſelf to act, if called upon, in the ſame manner. Let us ſhew the hirelings of a profligate adminiſtration, that, if great men, noble perſonages, high born politicians can chop and change about at random to get a ribband, a penſion, a place, or a title, we of the Swiniſh Multitude have ſtill ſome principles left in us; that we can act for the public good without their mean and mercenary motives; that to honeſt men ſpies are no terror, to brave men, dungeons no controul; that we have only one purpoſe in view, to obtain our rights, the freedom of election and annual parliaments; and that in purſuing theſe rights we are not inſtigated by a ſpirit of faction, but a true deſire to ſerve the beſt intereſts of our country. When liberty is eſtabliſhed on this baſis, we ſhall hear no more of eſpionage, of idle alarms, of imaginary plots to overthrow the ſtate or to kill the king; one part of the country will not be ſet on like bull-dogs to worry to death the other; we ſhall be one nation intent on ſecuring to each man the uncontrouled exerciſe of his abilities and induſtry; and inſtead of interfering in the private concerns of other countries, and waſting the blood and treaſures of our own in fooliſh ſchemes of ambition, by which a few only are benefited, we ſhall learn to ſet a due value on our own rights, to reſpect thoſe of our neighbours; we ſhall be in reality, what it is contended we ought to be by our conſtitution—A FREE AND HAPPY PEOPLE.

APPENDIX.

BRITISH MUSEUM
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APPENDIX.

IT had been my intention to insert in the preceding narrative, the examinations, &c. of CITIZEN BONE, one of those friends who had voluntarily attended the Privy Council and requested to be examined upon OATH in our behalf, at the time of our apprehension, respecting the enmity which was manifested on every occasion by Upton towards me and my fellow sufferers, with other particulars. I had requested of him to write out the same, but I found on receiving the parcel, that in lieu of enquiring into the circumstances attending the plot we had been charged with, the Privy Council (to make use of his own remarks upon them) "apparently abandoned the probability of the "scheme, and applied the whole of their attention to the "general concerns of the Corresponding Society," and this so minutely that I found it impracticable to insert it in so confined a space. I shall, however, insert the letter to which the same was annexed, in proof of the general tendency of the whole. I likewise wished to give the copy of the Commitment and Discharge, but the laws being suspended at the time of my apprehension, I could only *request* copies as a *favor*, which otherwise I should have *demanded* as a *right*; and although frequent applications were made, the jailer constantly put off the persons I sent as well as myself, from the time I had the discharge of the Council to the present day, for he that has power to refuse or deny, seldom is found wanting in dispositions to enforce that right they are generally unqualified to hold—how careful should men be at all times how they resign those rights into the hands of any one, or set of men, which they may have the most distant prospect of once wishing to enjoy.

Weston

" *Weſton-ſtreet, October* 10, 1795.

DEAR CITIZEN,

" I acknowledge the propriety of your opinion, 'that ' if my examination was not to appear, the public would ' argue from its ſuppreſſion that it would militate againſt ' you." I aſſure you if this idea had ſuggeſted itſelf to me I would not have troubled you to make a ſecond application. My own opinion was that it would be too long and tedious to preſent to the public, I was therefore rather unwilling to prepare it; but I now ſee the neceſſity of putting them in poſſeſſion of every poſſible information, and the juſtice of publiſhing whatever may have the moſt diſtant tendency of clearing up and expoſing that infernal miniſterial ſcheme now very properly called *the Pop-gun Plot*; and I therefore comply with your requeſt with the greateſt pleaſure.

" Your's ſincerely,

" JOHN BONE."

THE END.